

COLORADO

HEART OF THE ROCKIES

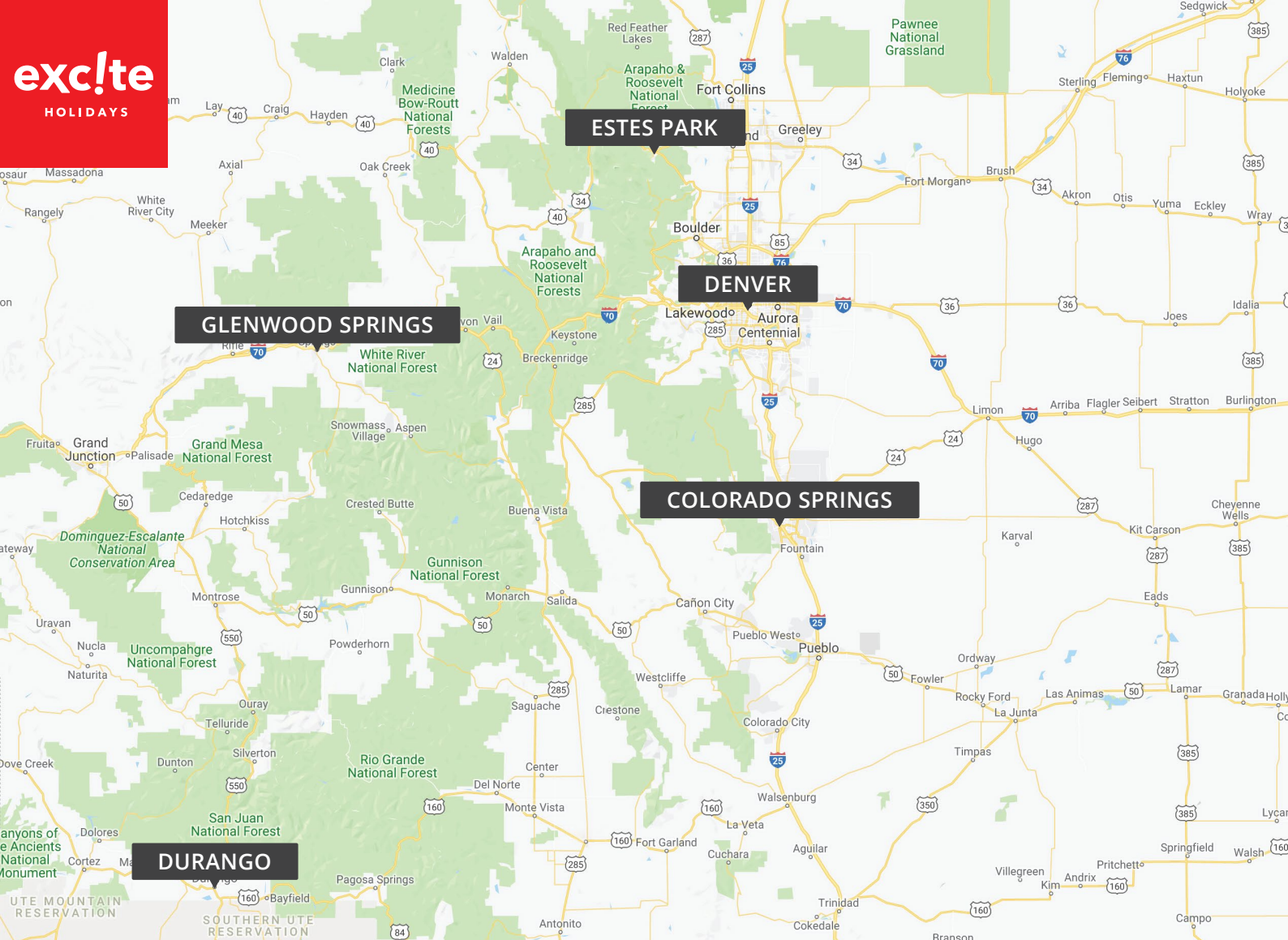


There's a resounding sense of exploration and adventure in the state of Colorado. The mighty peaks of the Rocky Mountains stand tall, a constant reminder that even today, some places cannot be tamed. The people of Colorado have a strong relationship with the outdoors, and visitors flock here to tame the ski slopes in winter, hike to alpine lakes and open meadows in summer, or test their nerves at the many man-made adventure parks and attractions throughout the state. A fantastic starting point, Denver is the gateway city to Colorado and the Rocky Mountain West with 300 days of sunshine, a walkable city centre and adventures for all ages.

So read on to discover how your clients can explore the great outdoors or have an urban adventure, and where they can relax with a hard-earned craft beer and a locally-sourced meal at the end of the day.

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FIND OUT MORE 



COLORADO DRIVE TIMES

Denver International Airport to Downtown: **30 minutes**
Denver to Colorado Springs: **70 minutes**
Denver to Glenwood Springs: **2 hours, 42 mins**
Denver to Estes Park: **1 hour, 20 mins**
Denver to Durango: **6 hours, 9 mins**

COLORADO KEY FACTS

Established: **1876**
Capital City: **Denver**
State Nickname: **The Centennial State**
Population: **5.6 million**
State Animal: **Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep**
Land Area: **268,627 square kilometres**
Average number of sunny days per year: **300**
Number of Lakes: **2,000**
Highest Point: **4,400 metres (Mount Elbert)**

FUN FACTS

Colorado is home to 4 National Parks and 41 state parks.

A skiers' paradise, Colorado is home to 7 mountain ranges and 28 ski resorts, including the highest in the country - Breckenridge Ski Resort.

With 312 craft breweries and counting, Colorado has the highest volume of craft breweries per capita in the USA.

The world's largest mineral hot springs pool is located in Glenwood Springs. The pool is 123 metres long and up to 30 metres wide.

A golf ball flies on average up to 10% further in Colorado than in other states, because of the higher altitude.

Denver's Colfax Avenue is the longest continuous street in the United States, with a total length of 42 kilometres.

The highest paved road in North America is the road to the summit of Mount Evans at 4,346 metres.

The 13th step of the state capitol building in Denver is exactly 1 mile above sea level.



DENVER

i ABOUT

Denver, Colorado got its start in the days of the Gold Rush in America in the 1850s. The Mile High City is a walkable, outdoor city at the foot of the Rocky Mountains. The brilliant blue skies, 300 days of sunshine and magnificent views of the Rocky Mountains inspire visitors to experience everything from hiking and biking to live music, art, culture and shopping. Getting into the city centre is easy with direct rail service from Denver International Airport to Denver Union Station, just steps from the 16th Street Mall free shuttle that runs through the heart of the city centre.

Discover Denver's creative side at Denver Art Museum, home to famous Western and American Indian art collections or explore the craft breweries featured on the Denver Beer Trail. See a concert under the stars at Red Rocks Amphitheatre or take a day trip to Rocky Mountain National Park.

ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES

Terminal Bar

Tucked away in the old ticketing office of The Great Hall inside Denver Union Station, this upscale gastropub is an oasis for craft beers, bespoke cocktails and modern eats including one of Denver's best burgers.

Art & History

Visit Denver Art Museum, home to famous Western and American Indian art collections, enjoy interactive exhibits at History Colorado Center and see works of Colorado artists at the Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art.

Craft Breweries

Sip one of the 200 craft beers brewed in The Mile High City daily, and let the Denver Beer Trail be your guide to the city's unique breweries, many of which are located in the walkable downtown.

Shop 'til you drop

Cherry Creek Shopping Center and the Cherry Creek North are a shopper's paradise filled with art galleries, boutiques, restaurants and hundreds of name-brand stores including Macy's and Nordstrom.

Coors Field

Soak up the electric ambiance, marvel at the spectacular views of the Rocky Mountains, and wash down some Rocky Mountain oysters with an ice cold Coors whilst cheering on the Colorado Rockies baseball team!

WHERE TO EAT

Denver Central Market

Offering a variety of local and specialty vendors including a bakery, green grocer and seafood market, as well as a hip cocktail bar, this gourmet marketplace and food hall is a vibrant dining destination to eat, drink and shop!

TAG

Inspired by head Chef Troy Guard's travel experiences to Singapore, Japan, New York and Hawaii, this renowned eatery fuses exotic flavours and local culinary techniques, creating fresh, modern dishes that are best shared!

Snooze: an A.M. Eatery

Iconic pancake stacks, artisan benedict creations, bespoke breakfast cocktails and fresh brewed coffee make this bustling diner a timeless favourite! Go for the delicious fare and stay for the energetic atmosphere and warm hospitality!



HOTEL INDIGO DENVER DOWNTOWN

★★★★★ 1801 Wewatta Street, Denver

This modern hotel is located in the heart of Denver's downtown, close to Coors Field and the trendy LoDo neighbourhood, 16th Street Mall and Larimer Square. The property includes a fitness centre, bar and free WiFi.



DENVER FOR FAMILIES

SCIENCE & NATURE

Denver Zoo

Located on more than 80 acres at the north end of Denver's City Park, the kids will love getting up close to a wide variety of animal species, and learn about their natural habitats.

Denver Museum of Nature & Science

Covers everything from dinosaurs, gems and minerals to space exploration, Native American culture and the human body. It also features a planetarium and IMAX theatre.

Children's Museum of Denver at Marisco Campus

A great addition for those with kids up to eight years old, exhibits are hands-on, interactive and make learning fun! There's also a host of special events held throughout the year.

Downtown Aquarium

Explore marine ecosystems from around the world in more than 1 million gallons of exhibits, located right next door to the Children's Museum of Denver.

OUTDOORS

Red Rocks Park & Amphitheatre

Check out an event at the world famous naturally-formed amphitheatre, or explore the trails in the park and learn about the history of the area at the visitor centre.

Denver Botanic Gardens

This sprawling garden has a wide range of collections, including the Mordecai Children's Garden where the little ones can explore six distinct ecosystems.

Dinosaur Ridge

Just outside Denver, take a walk along the Dinosaur Ridge Trail, which has dinosaur tracks, fossils and bones signposted along the way. The walk will take between one and two hours.

Rocky Mountain National Park

Just 90 minutes outside of Denver is the famous Rocky Mountains National Park, where you can take a day trip to explore hiking trails, lakes, waterfalls and go for a horseback ride.

EVENTS

Winter Park Express Ski Train

Each weekend from January to March, this train takes visitors directly to the base of Winter Park Resort from Denver Union Station - there's skiing, tubing and activities for the kids.

A Taste of Colorado

Explore Denver's diverse food scene at this event running between August 31st and September 2nd, with traditional and ethnic cuisines, live music and family activities.

Denver Arts Week

Celebrate The Mile High City's vibrant arts and culture scene each November with First Friday art walks, FREE Night at the Museums, theatre, film, dance, music and more.

Slow Food Nations

Held from July 19th to 21st, this international food festival allows visitors to connect with food through tastings, live cooking demonstrations, talks and hands-on activities.

SPORTS & RECREATION

Professional Sports

Denver has seven professional sports teams, so you can always catch a live game between the Rockies (Baseball), Avalanche (Ice Hockey), Nuggets (Basketball) or Broncos (Football).

Bike Trails

With the Denver B-Cycle bike share system, it's easy to pick up a bike and go for a ride. We recommend checking out the Cherry Creek Bike Path or the Greenway Trail.

Elitch Gardens Theme & Water Park

Located right in downtown, this theme park first opened in 1890, with 54 rides and attractions, live shows and a water park. The park is open May through October.

National Western Stock Show and Rodeo

See the best Rodeo athletes in the business as they compete in the first major pro rodeo of the season. The kids will also love the petting farm and pony rides.



SHERATON DENVER DOWNTOWN

★★★★★ 1550 Court Place, Denver

Sheraton Denver Downtown is located on 16th Street Mall, a pedestrian promenade in the heart of the city filled with restaurants, shopping and entertainment. The hotel includes a heated rooftop pool, gym and several dining options.



COLORADO SPRINGS

i ABOUT

Just over an hours' drive south of Denver lies Colorado Springs, a year-round destination that combines spectacular natural scenery with heart-pounding adventures, family-friendly activities and a vibrant arts and dining scene. With more than 300 days of sun, your clients will be able to hike the wonders of the Pikes Peak region at places like the iconic Garden of the Gods and Paint Mines Interpretive Parks. Thrill-seekers can test their nerves at the Royal Gorge Bridge and Park, along the waters of the Arkansas River and on a zipline tour at the base of Pikes Peak.

The city showcases a lively arts scene, an Arts on the Streets program bringing public installations to the heart of downtown, and the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College highlighting the work of local and international artists. Whether your clients are hiking a trail, flying along a zipline or just settling in with a locally brewed craft beverage, their time exploring Colorado Springs will no doubt leave a lasting memory.

ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES

Colorado Springs Olympic Training Center

This site offers a glimpse into the daily lives of Team USA hopefuls looking to make it to the next Olympic Games. For an extra-special experience, book a behind-the-scenes VIP tour. Look out for the new U.S. Olympic Museum and Hall of Fame opening in early 2020.

Royal Gorge Bridge & Park

America's highest suspension bridge sits 294 metres above the Arkansas River. The park also offers gondola rides, America's highest zip line and the truly exhilarating Royal Rush Skycoaster that swings brave participants over the edge of the gorge!

Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center

This conservation park offers a one-in-a-lifetime experience for guests to get up close and personal with wolves, coyotes and foxes. There are a variety of tours throughout the park, ending with a group 'wolf howl' - the wolves will join in!

Public Art & Museums

Colorado Springs and the surrounding region is home to a vibrant arts community, and institutions like the Colorado Fine Arts Center celebrate this artistic heritage. Art lovers can also explore the downtown sculptures through the Art on the Streets program.

Colo-Rad Zipline Tour

Zipline over the foothills of historic Manitou Springs at the foot of Pikes Peak - America's Mountain. Experience the thrills and spectacular views from the five ziplines that span lengths of 70 to 180 metres with all gear provided, and the help of expert guides.

WHERE TO EAT

Ivywild School

This converted elementary school is now home to a communal marketplace that's always buzzing. Report to The Principal's Office for quality coffee and cocktails, head to the Ivywild Kitchen for comfort food or try out the Bristol Brewery or Axe and the Oak distillery.

The Warehouse Restaurant

Just south of downtown is this family-owned eatery and art gallery is located in a converted warehouse. Chef James produces quality home-cooking in a casual environment using only the freshest local ingredients with a distinct New Mexico influence.

Till Kitchen

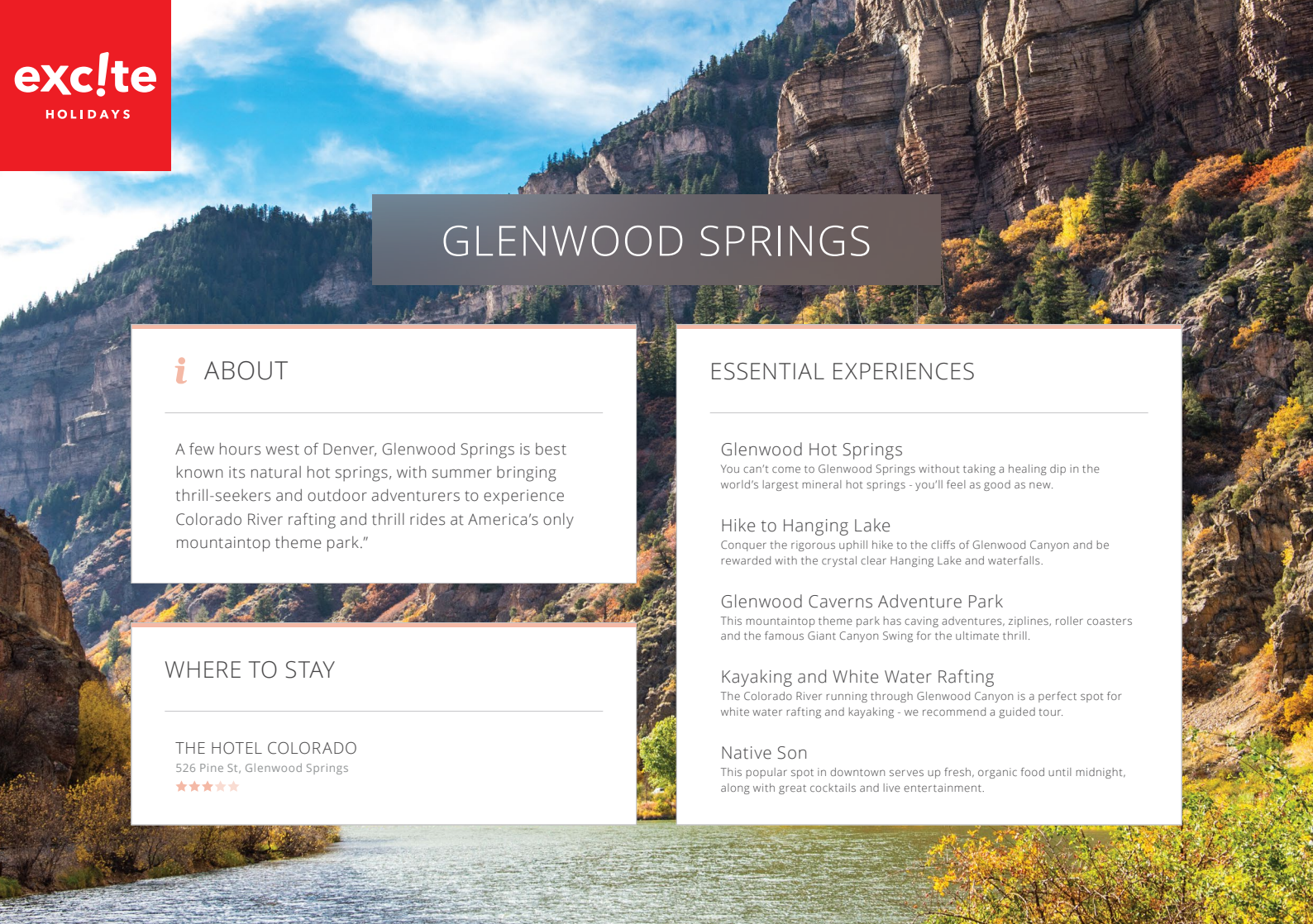
Find a true passion and integrity for food at this local eatery. Menus feature carefully-crafted, locally sourced and seasonal dishes. Guests will enjoy an extensive wine selection, artisan breads and pastries baked onsite and pizza fresh from a wood-fired oven.



GARDEN OF THE GODS RESORT & CLUB

★★★★★ 3320 Mesa Road, Colorado Springs

This luxury resort features spacious rooms, tennis courts, Olympic size pool, kids club and 27-hole golf course. With the iconic Garden of the Gods Park in full view, guests can choose to relax, or get out and take advantage of the activities on offer in the resort.



GLENWOOD SPRINGS

i ABOUT

A few hours west of Denver, Glenwood Springs is best known its natural hot springs, with summer bringing thrill-seekers and outdoor adventurers to experience Colorado River rafting and thrill rides at America's only mountaintop theme park."

WHERE TO STAY

THE HOTEL COLORADO
526 Pine St, Glenwood Springs
★★★★★

ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES

Glenwood Hot Springs

You can't come to Glenwood Springs without taking a healing dip in the world's largest mineral hot springs - you'll feel as good as new.

Hike to Hanging Lake

Conquer the rigorous uphill hike to the cliffs of Glenwood Canyon and be rewarded with the crystal clear Hanging Lake and waterfalls.

Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park

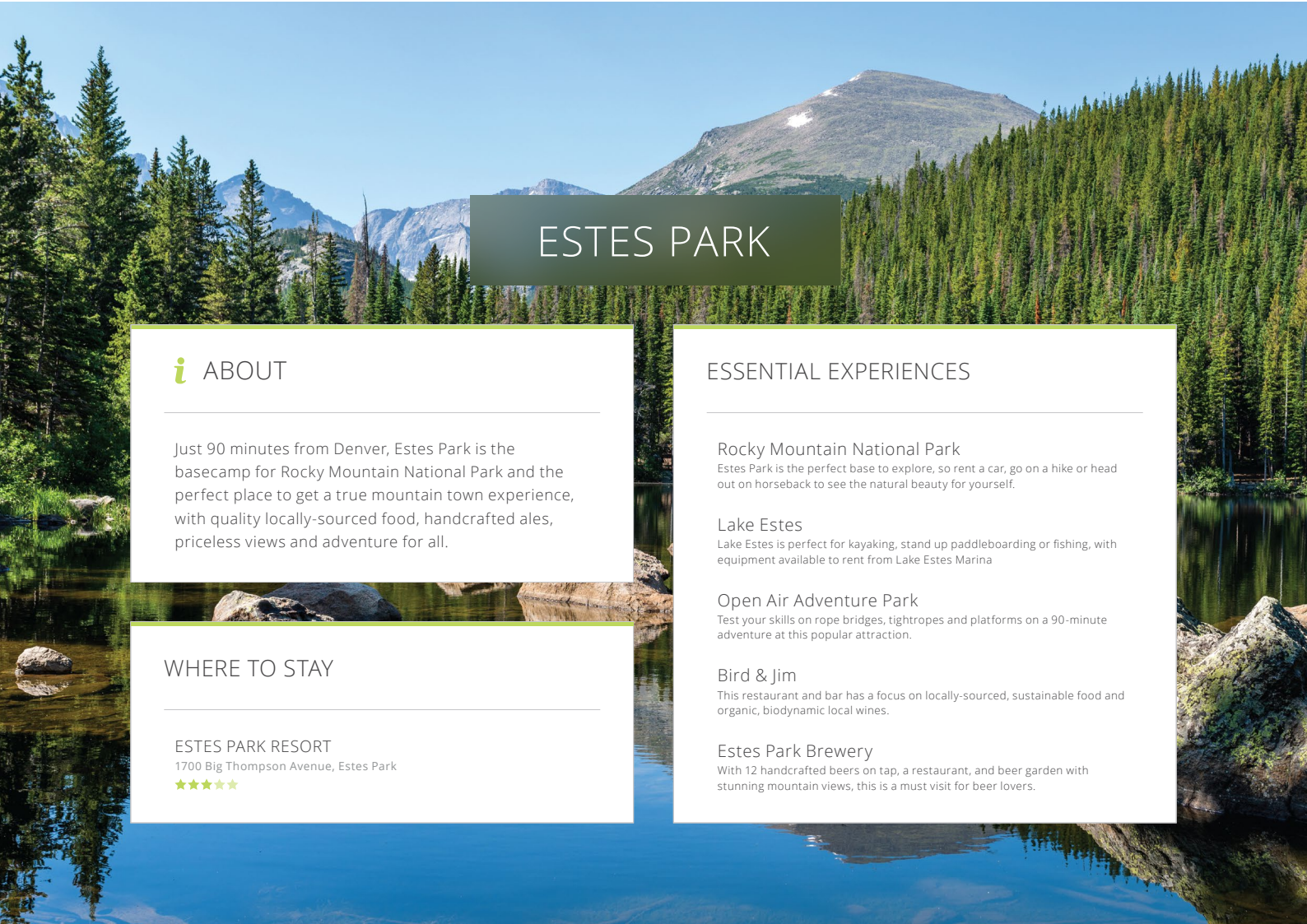
This mountaintop theme park has caving adventures, ziplines, roller coasters and the famous Giant Canyon Swing for the ultimate thrill.

Kayaking and White Water Rafting

The Colorado River running through Glenwood Canyon is a perfect spot for white water rafting and kayaking - we recommend a guided tour.

Native Son

This popular spot in downtown serves up fresh, organic food until midnight, along with great cocktails and live entertainment.



ESTES PARK

i ABOUT

Just 90 minutes from Denver, Estes Park is the basecamp for Rocky Mountain National Park and the perfect place to get a true mountain town experience, with quality locally-sourced food, handcrafted ales, priceless views and adventure for all.

WHERE TO STAY

ESTES PARK RESORT
1700 Big Thompson Avenue, Estes Park
★★★★★

ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES

Rocky Mountain National Park

Estes Park is the perfect base to explore, so rent a car, go on a hike or head out on horseback to see the natural beauty for yourself.

Lake Estes

Lake Estes is perfect for kayaking, stand up paddleboarding or fishing, with equipment available to rent from Lake Estes Marina

Open Air Adventure Park

Test your skills on rope bridges, tightropes and platforms on a 90-minute adventure at this popular attraction.

Bird & Jim

This restaurant and bar has a focus on locally-sourced, sustainable food and organic, biodynamic local wines.

Estes Park Brewery

With 12 handcrafted beers on tap, a restaurant, and beer garden with stunning mountain views, this is a must visit for beer lovers.



DURANGO

i ABOUT

Located southwestern Colorado, Durango offers a combination of Old West experiences, ancient ruins, exceptional arts and culture, world-class outdoor recreation, a distinctive dining scene and authentic western charm.

WHERE TO STAY

HISTORIC STRATER HOTEL
699 Main Ave, Durango
★★★★★

ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES

Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad
This traditional steam train journey winds through breathtaking canyons, with the summer round trip excursion to the historic town of Silverton.

Purgatory Resort
Just 20 minutes from downtown, Purgatory offers skiing in winter, and a vast network of mountain biking and hiking trails in summer.

Rafting in the Animas River
The river accommodates all levels of ability, with the upper Animas suited to experienced rafters, and the lower water park perfect for families.

Mesa Verde National Park
Take a full day tour to explore the impressive cliff dwellings built by Native Americans over 800 years ago, located just an hour from Durango.

El Moro Tavern
This classic saloon has a rich old west history, and serves up handcrafted cocktails and an innovative menu.



ACTIVITIES

LOWER DOWNTOWN DENVER FOOD TOUR
Denver

This tour takes on five of Denver's premier restaurants, hearing first hand from the chefs behind them.

BICYCLE TOUR OF DOWNTOWN DENVER
Denver

Explore Denver's most popular sites including historic buildings, sports stadiums, public art and parks.

COLO-RAD ZIPLINE TOUR
Colorado Springs
Take on a natural terrain course comprising five ziplines soaring above the foothills of beautiful Pikes Peak.

GLENWOOD SPRINGS HALF-DAY RAFTING TRIP
Glenwood Springs
Head up the Colorado River in Glenwood Canyon and take on the rapids with an experienced guide.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK HIKING
Estes Park
An experienced guide will lead a hike through the lesser known corners of the famous Rocky Mountain National Park.

MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK TOUR
Durango
Explore the cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde on this full-day tour that includes lunch and an experienced guide.



NATIONAL & STATE PARKS

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) is one of the most popular in the country. The vast area of protected wilderness includes more than 571 kilometres of hiking trails, 147 lakes and 77 mountains over 3,500 metres elevation. A day trip to RMNP is possible from Denver, with the town of Estes Park an option for those wanting to stay at the entrance to the park. Take on one of the scenic drives, including Trail Ridge Road, the highest continuous motorway in the United States, or seek out some of the stunning wildlife in the area, from elk in the meadows, bighorn sheep at Sheep Lakes, or moose along the banks of the Upper Colorado River.

GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE

In southern Colorado, the Great Sand Dunes National Park is made up of more than 70 square kilometres of sand dunes, with some up to 230 metres high. The dunes have formed over thousands of years, resulting in a unique contrasting landscape as arid sand dunes meet the base of the Rocky Mountains. Visitors to the park can take a hike up the dunes and embrace their inner child by sliding back down, explore the horseback riding trails, go for a nature walk or try their hand at four-wheel driving on the dunes. At certain times of year, the mysterious Medano Creek forms as melting snow from the nearby peaks creates a natural waterslide, perfect for tubing and cooling off.

BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL PARK

Colorado's version of the Grand Canyon, the Black Canyon of the Gunnison is a hidden gem, and is worthy of inclusion on any trip to Colorado. Known for its sheer cliffs that descend more than 600 metres to the Gunnison River below, the park is popular with experienced rock climbers, with the majority of visitors enjoying the many hikes and nature trails along the rim - we recommend the the Rim Rock Nature Trail, or the Oak Flat Loop Trail that lies just below the canyon rim. Black Canyon of the Gunnison is also an accredited International Dark Sky Park which makes it perfect for stargazing.!

MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK

Mesa Verde National Park was established in 1906 to preserve the incredible archaeological sites, including over 600 cliff dwellings that date back to the ancient Pueblo people who called them home for more than 700 years. The National Park is located in southern Colorado, around 40 minutes drive west of Durango. Head to the Mesa Verde Visitor and Research Center to start your journey, where visitors can purchase tickets to see the three main cliff dwelling sites, Cliff Palace, Balcony House and Long House. Exhibits within the centre will help your clients plan their visit and offer more insight into the lives of the Ancestral Pueblo people.

In addition to these four National Parks, Colorado's diverse landscape boasts natural hot springs, the headwaters of four major rivers, numerous peaceful lakes and reservoirs, 41 state parks, 8 national monuments and 58 mountain peaks that top 14,000 feet, known as 'Fourteeners'.